

Cindy Carol is a typically pert and wholesome 18-year-old who has burst into filmland prominence by winning the role of Gidget No. 3



Hollywood's Newest Teen-Age Star

By PEER J. OPPENHEIMER

FOUR YEARS AGO, Sandra Dee was catapulted to stardom as the irrepressible teen-age heroine of the movie, "Gidget."

Two years later, Columbia made "Gidget Goes Hawaiian" as a sequel to the highly successful comedy. Deborah Walley took over the title role because Sandra Dee had become too mature—and too expensive—for the part.

A few months ago, producer Jerry Bresler was faced with finding a third Gidget for "Gidget Goes to Rome"—because Gidget No. 2 was married and about to have a child. After a nationwide search, Bresler found his new Gidget right on the Columbia lot. She is Cindy Carol, and at the time she was discovered, she was playing one of Loretta Young's daughters in tv's "The Loretta Young Show" (which was produced by Screen Gems, a subsidiary of Columbia).

After I met Cindy, I realized it wasn't just studio nepotism that won her the title role in the film. She seems ideally suited for the part of the typical American teen-ager.

Cindy is 18, has brown hair and eyes, and is five-feet, four-inches tall. At North Hollywood High School, she was a cheerleader for two years. She gets her weekly allowance on Monday and is broke by Wednesday; loves jazz and folk songs; plays the guitar; rides, swims, and water skis; hates cooking; prefers the company of boys to girls; and has been going steady for two weeks at a time "for years." She has two brothers, one sister, and a pet cat named George.

As for her parents, Cindy explains, "My father is a high-school English teacher, and my mother is from Texas."

According to Cindy, her mother is the more lenient of the two, but actu-

ally it is her father whom she can wind around her little finger.

For example, when she first brought up the subject of acting, he said, "Absolutely and positively NO!" But as Cindy recalls, "I played it coy. I knew that, on a teacher's salary, he couldn't afford to send us all to college. So when he poured cold water on my wanting to be an actress, I reversed tactics and told him I wanted to be a teacher—but that I would need money to go to school. If I could just do a tv show once in a while, I could make enough money to pay my tuition. What could he say but yes?"

AN AGENT FRIEND of Cindy's mother got her an occasional part. Says Cindy, "If Daddy had thought I wanted to take up acting seriously, he would have had a coronary. This way, he got used to the idea gradually."

When she was offered a part in the pilot of "The Loretta Young Show," she wasn't about to take any chances of letting her father turn down the series. She didn't confess it was a running part until the show was sold to a sponsor. "He went along with it when I promised to go to college at night," she told me. "So I attend Valley State, but my heart is in acting."

By the time Cindy was offered the part of Gidget, her father had grown accustomed to the idea of her as an actress. When the studio changed her name from Carol Sydes to Cindy Carol, she was upset, but he told her, "Don't let it worry you, Honey, someday you'll get married and have to change your name anyway."

How does it feel suddenly to make \$300 a week—with a chance of earning \$1,250 a week in seven years? Cindy answered, "Financially, it hasn't been much of a boost so far. Dad only raised my allowance from \$8 to \$10."

Is she concerned about remaining levelheaded? "Daddy assured me that as long as you are brought up in a normal home with a good set of principles, you'll maintain them," Cindy replied. "He taught me to remember that today is today, but that tomorrow is another day, to be grateful for what I have—because next week I may be in Lower Slobovia."



Gidget No. 1 was Sandra Dee (right), followed by Deborah Walley (above).

